

Looe Urban District Council

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The  
**Annual Report**  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year ending 1937.

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SNELL AND COWLING, PRINTERS, LISKEARD.



# To the Chairman and Members of The Looe Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I now present to you my ANNUAL REPORT for the year ending 1937.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in Acres	...	...	1,649 $\frac{1}{2}$
Population	...	...	3,059
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	1,147
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£93
Rateable Value	...	...	£23,780

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS—	Total.	Female.	Male.
Legitimate	28	16	12
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Still Births—Legitimate	3	2	1
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	2	2	0
Deaths	34	21	13
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	9.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	13.07
Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth or sepsis	...	...	nil
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	nil

As compared with my Annual Report of 1936, you will observe that the Birth Rate per 1,000 has dropped from 13.67 to 9.4, a very considerable falling off. On the other hand, the Death Rate is 13.07 as against 14.97 in 1936.

**Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified**

					<i>Deaths.</i>
Small Pox	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	.	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	..	...	2	2
Puerperal Fever	..	..	...	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	..	...	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0

**Social Conditions.**

The development of Looe during the past year has proceeded by leaps and bounds, and your Council's responsibilities for the good government of the town are naturally very seriously increased.

There are several very dangerous corners in both East and West Looe, and with the large increase in the numbers of cars on the streets it might be well if you gentlemen took this urgent matter in hand as soon as possible.

Building has continued apace, thus the necessity of a well considered Sewage Scheme becomes more pressing each year.

Hannafore being now well provided with excellent Bowling and Putting Greens, which have provided much enjoyment and healthy recreation to visitors and residents alike, I would again direct your attention to the absolute necessity of providing a good play-ground in an accessible position for the many children of the two Looes.

**The Fishing Industry**

Unfortunately there has been no improvement in the Fishing Industry. Whereas twenty years ago there were fifty luggers plying their trade there are now a bare half dozen.

Herrings in Bigbury Bay appear to have departed for less fished water and our boats also have to go much further out to sea in order to have any success

in boltering. The Plymouth trawlers working up and down the Channel, sweeping up all the young undersized fish, must be held partly responsible for the deplorable state of affairs of our fishing industry.

### **Nursing in the Home**

The Looe Nursing Association is now affiliated to the County and has adopted their rules. There are three fully certificated midwives practising in the town, and in difficult cases they may call in a medical man at the expense of the County.

### **Nursing of Infectious Diseases.**

I must again draw the attention of the Council to the fact that nothing has so far been done in regard to the nursing of infectious diseases. Few householders have the facilities for nursing at home. Expense precludes the erection of an Isolation Hospital in Looe, but adjacent districts might share one between them. The Smallpox Isolation Hospital at Liskeard is only available for that disease.

### **Hospitals**

Looe is fortunate in having the use of excellent and up-to-date Maternity Homes — “Dawn” and “Dorrien House.”

The Hospitals are the Liskeard Cottage Hospital (general) and the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth, which is a fully equipped institute; Tehidy Sanatorium for tuberculosis; and Joint Smallpox Isolation Hospital at Liskeard.

The “Penny-in-the-Pound” is distributed among the Plymouth General Hospital, so that all branches of the hospital are at the disposal of the contributors.

### **Mental Defectives**

Mental defectives are treated at the Bodmin Mental Hospital.

### **Maternal Morality**

It is with great satisfaction that I am able to report there has been no death from puerperal causes of any description during the past year. Our thanks are due to the provision of ante-natal clinics and better technique at childbirth.

Maternal mortality has been greatly reduced throughout the County and child bearing robbed of of its greatest terror.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

The Child Welfare Centre and Ante-Natal Clinic continue to do most valuable work. The Ante-Natal Clinic prevents future mothers from running unnecessary risks and acts as a safeguard at the birth of the child. The importance of this work cannot be over-rated, as also the advice concerning the correct feeding of infants.

### **Ambulance**

The Ambulance Corps has more than justified its creation, under the guidance of Dr. Cooper, and in many cases rendered First Aid—and promptly to many casualties. Looe needs an ambulance for the transport of infectious diseases. It is most necessary to be ready to meet an epidemic should one unfortunately break out.

### **X-Ray Treatment**

Thanks to the enterprise of Mr. Clague, we are fortunate in having every modern facility for X-ray work, as well as other forms of heat and therapy.

### **Laboratory Facilities**

Pathological examination of sputum swabs is done by the Clinical Research Association, also the analysis of food stuffs, water, milk, etc. The cost of these is paid by the Local Authority.

In all cases of blood examination, laboratory tests are performed by the County Authority free of charge.

### **Cancer**

There were five deaths from cancer during 1937—one male and four females. I can only repeat my remarks in my earlier Annual Reports—that Cancer is not incurable if treated in its early stages.

It is advisable if suffering from an unaccountable and continuous pain to seek medical opinion early.

### **Tuberculosis**

There was but one death, a male, from this, it is to be hoped, a fast dying out disease. Better housing, plenty of sunshine, fresh air, healthy food, and pure milk will cause the tubercle bacilli to die out.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **Water**

The water from the East Cornwall Water Board has arrived and is proving satisfactory as to quality and quantity.

All pumping has ceased and two of the existing supplies have been abandoned.

### **Extensions of Water Mains**

1,528 lin. yards of 4 in. cast iron water main was laid at Barbican.

1,066 lin. yards of 5 in. cast iron water main was laid at Hannafore.

### **Sewerage and Drainage.**

36 feet of cast iron pipes 9 in. diameter and a manhole constructed with cement concrete at Hannafore outfall sewer.

300 feet of 6 in. diameter stoneware socketed pipes was laid through Hannafore Back Lane to drain new terrace of houses.



25 new house drains were laid. These were examined and passed, and all defective drains of houses have been repaired and in many cases relaid.

During the year a scheme for providing and laying a 12 in. cast-iron outfall sewer at East Cliff was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry. It had, however, to be abandoned, and a scheme embracing a much larger area was prepared with an outfall sewer at Millendreath beach at an estimated cost of £20,000

The development at East Cliff, Plaidy and Millendreath depends upon a sewer and outfall being provided. I fear the cost of this scheme will greatly delay the accomplishment of this work, and so development will be hampered.

#### **Public Cleansing**

An up-to-date refuse Incinerator has been erected on a site just outside the town, and is capable of destroying five tons per day of eight hours.

#### **House Refuse**

House refuse is removed twice weekly from the town and once per week from Millendreath. The amount removed per week by mechanical transport is approximately twenty tons.

The provision of large open bins for the reception of street litter has proved satisfactory.

Twelve of these bins were placed during the summer season at busy places in the District, and were of great assistance in scavenging the streets.

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

#### **Disinfection and Disinfestation**

Disinfection after all cases of infectious disease, and the work of disinfestation are carried out by the Local Authority.



### Public Conveniences

During the year a new ladies' convenience was erected in West Looe.

### Meat and other Goods

There are seven licensed slaughter houses in the District—four in East Looe and three in West Looe. They are regularly inspected.

The amount of meat imported to Looe from Plymouth, Liskeard, and the surrounding country district is increasing.

Vans and meat shops are inspected and the meat examined.

### Milk Supply

There are ten licensed retail purveyors of milk, and eleven registered farms and premises which are used as dairies. A large amount of milk is received from outside the Urban District. Farms supplying this milk are visited, and their names entered in the register.

### Housing Statistics

#### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	43
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	54
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	0

#### 2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ... ..	8
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### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

#### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0

#### C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0

#### D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	0

### 4. *Housing Act, 1936. —Part IV,—Overcrowding :—*

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	5
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	5
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	36
(b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	0
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	0
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0

In conclusion, gentlemen, it may fairly be said that much has been done in the way of sanitation in Looe during the past year. Old abuses have been done away with, an ample supply of pure water is now at the doors of everyone—(especially the shopkeeper

in Fore Street and West Looe with a high spring tide) —condemned houses have nearly all been reconditioned and overcrowding remedied by the provision of many new Council Houses. All these improvements tend to the enjoyment of Good Health. It is indeed I am sure a satisfaction to you, that in this Annual Report, I am able to say without reserve that the health of Looe is abnormally good.

LAWRENCE MORAN,

M.B.: B.Ch.; B.A.O.

*Medical Officer for Looe and District.*





